



R & R Publication of the Ramstein Cadet Squadron

Ramstein Reader

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2004



New Squadron Information System

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BREAKING NEWS



Spirit landing on Mars

Not many CAP squadrons can really say they have their own information system, especially overseas. 1st Lieutenant's Leonard and Amy La-Porte have recently completed an ongoing squadron project that has taken almost a year to complete: the building of a squadron LAN (local area network) from the ground up. But networking computers was only one of the final phases of this huge undertaking. Bunkered in their office turned laboratory, this hus-

band & wife senior member team has been refurbishing computers, installing operating systems and troubleshooting parts without ever having launched objects at each other once as so many other couples so lovingly do. All computers and monitors stemmed from various generous donations so getting them all up to date and ready to perform together was a great challenge. This experimental information system is not linked to the outside World Wide Web but will

serve several purposes: Computer based training for cadet programs, flight simulation for learning the principles of flight, teaching cadets about the way military and civilian organizations assign user accounts, real world implementation of security policies and providing cadets with a real world LAN scenario to begin learning about information systems in the workplace. If you are a squadron member and haven't been assigned a password yet, see any of theb

Special Squadron Section

Christmas Party

Thursday, 18 December 2003 was the last meeting for 2003 and the squadron Christmas party complete with white elephant gift giving, pot luck dinner and games was the year's last activity. The informal occasion gave many of the cadet's a pretty good idea of how they might look in everyday civilian attire (????). The traditional commander's call ended the ceremonial occasion with a total attendance of 16 squadron members combined, not counting friends and family members. Not bad for a Christmas party!

Defending America

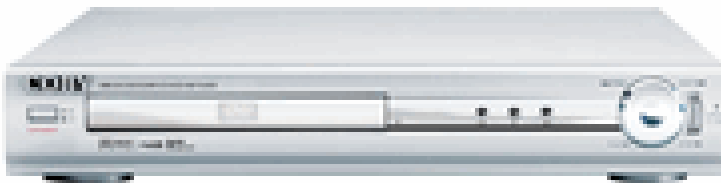
The new premiere website of the Department of Defense features new links to the military service branches, the new Department of Homeland Security and on the bottom left, a new link to the Civil Air Patrol among others. This recent new website can be viewed at www.defendamerica.mil and features military news and presidential messages of various kinds. The link to our national headquarters website has already caused a spike in new memberships stateside and our operations section is growing fast. For more information, see our operations page at www.cap.gov

New CAP Uniforms

For those who can't wait to order their new CAP BDU uniform from CAP-MART or elsewhere, there is an army & navy store in Kaiserslautern that has them in stock already. Horutko's Military & More store in Steinstrasse 27 is right next to Saint Martins Platz. Be careful of the original brand name's and their look alike's as there are substantial differences in quality. As always, please consult CAPR 39-1, the national headquarter's website at www.cap.gov or our squadron commander before making any new uniform purchases as there are several differences in wear and insignia.

Special Technology Section

Worldwide DVD Player's



If you recently purchased a PAL/NTSC DVD player with multi-voltage (100-240 volts), you might get different results depending on which brand name you got. As this new PAL/NTSC interoperability feature gains popularity, here are some surprising benchmark results to ponder before you make a purchase: The DVD player Pioneer DV-366-k which carries the *world code 1* mark along with the advertised PAL/NTSC modes does not playback PAL DVD's. Conversely, the COBY DVD Player Model 215 from *world code 1* with identically advertised PAL/NTSC modes works very well. Why? Improving features frequently outpace international conventions causing specs on product boxes and technical sheets to be inaccurate. This in turn is creating confusion among the smaller market of military and international con-



sumers. PAL DVD discs from North America (*world code 1*) simply do not exist, so to advertise that a *world code 1* DVD player can playback both PAL and NTSC is bogus unless it truly accepts *world codes 1 and 2*. On the same token, European market DVD players (with *world code 2*) that advertise PAL and NTSC playback could also be bogus unless truly compatible with *world codes 1 and 2* as well. Most DVD players that promise PAL/NTSC interoperability

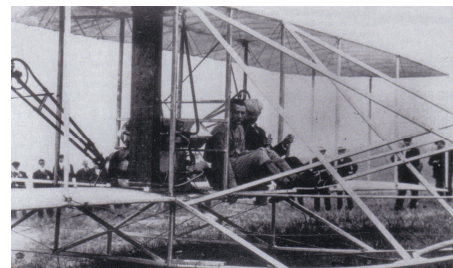
really do, but advertise only one world code, making a consumer's product spec sheet inspection a nightmare. So how do you really tell which brands really do playback both PAL and NTSC modes despite what they might advertise on the packaging boxes? The only way is to bring a PAL DVD disc and an NTSC DVD disc to your vendor for testing. If both discs display their movie menu screens, then you have found a true PAL/NTSC DVD player.

Community activities

2nd Annual "Aviation for Teens Night"

In celebration of 100 years of powered flight, the second annual Aviation for Teens Night will take place this year at the Vogelweh Community Center on 29 January 2004 between 1800 and 2000 hours with a few breaks in between. Teens, parents and people who love space flight and aviation are welcome. A simplified history of the Wright Brothers will open the evening followed by various guest speakers with presentations on aviation in general. Space flight and model

rocketry will also be covered as well as a brief presentation of the Civil Air Patrol's (event sponsoring unit) cadet program. There will also be representatives from several branches of the military services to talk about how aviation has impacted their operations as well college representatives from Embry-Riddle University to talk to teens about civilian careers in aviation. If you ever had any friends or class



ORVILLE IN FRONT OF LT LAHM PREPARING FOR A ONE HOUR FLIGHT

mates that you wanted to introduce to the Civil Air Patrol, then here is an event you can invite them to.

Cadet Creative Section

Do You Have a Plan?

I met the most skilled, stone cold, obedient and efficient cadet Master Sergeant ever while I was a member of the Hawaii Wing. As other cadets pushed quarters into vending machines to drink questionable fluids and eat harmful snacks, he preferred drinking water from his canteen and tearing open MRE's with his teeth. His personal first aid kit contained a staple gun, duck tape and rubbing compound. He had more holes punched in his 101T card than a man-target had bullet holes at a shooting range. This cadet had no dreams, just *well rehearsed plans*.

Word first got to me when he hiked 25 miles each way, -rucksack and all - every Thursday evening for six months to attend his CAP meetings. He lived in Waikiki Beach and I had once asked him to help revamp the cadet program up at the Wheeler squadron.

"Flaming demons couldn't hold me back, Sir" was his response. In the six years that he was a cadet, nobody had ever met his parents. Some whispered his parent's



signatures were forged on his cadet application because he was one of Stan Lee's X-men that came to life. Others claimed he was a dead marine who regrouped in hell & shot his way out and back. Frequently misunderstood as he dumped his girlfriend because she didn't think the box of live ammunition "he procured her" for Valentine's Day was a romantic gesture, this cadet was seriously disappointed when his request for permission to form a *Cadet Special Operations Team* was denied by the wing commander himself.

Finally, he got permission from an Army weapons sergeant to attend a special forces briefing at Schofield Barracks and his life changed dramatically. He now knew what his mission in life was; breaking stuff for Uncle Sam. Although basic training bored him to tears, he scored well on his ASVAB & got the Army MOS he wanted. Last I heard of him he was growing a beard to infiltrate caves near *Tora Bora*. Have a dream (or a well rehearsed plan)? Send it to eredita@tiscali.de & get it here next.

**"FLAMING
DEMONS
COULDN'T
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CIVIL AIR PATROL "SEMPER VIGILANS"

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Disclaimer:
This is an R & R publication only. It does not reflect any official policies of the Civil Air Patrol's national headquarters and only supplements the information published on our squadron's website. Unless otherwise noted, all written articles are by Captain Raphael Eredita.



If you would like to find out more about Civil Air Patrol in the KMC area, send us an e-mail at civilair.patrol@ramstein.af.mil or log onto our website below. You can also call us on Thursday evenings after 1800 hours at DSN 489-7752 or COM 0631-536-7752. We are physically located in Bldg. 1003 in the Vogelweh Housing Area diagonal across from the Housing Office and next to the Ramstein Inn.

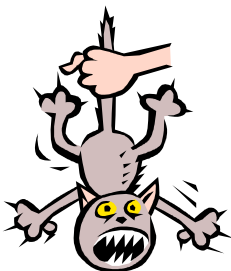
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Command & Staff Section

Prof. Development

Just because we are not an active duty military organization, it doesn't mean we can't and shouldn't be promoted. We do not get rank by seniority alone. We get it primarily by achievement. Whether you are a cadet or senior member, you owe it to yourself to strive to study to make it to your next level. Specialty ratings are not a given either; find out what you need to do to advance from technician to senior, to master rating in a specialty track. Find out about the next CLC and SLS schools and what they can do to advance you further. A qualified CAP member is a useful CAP member.



Capt. Justin Baier

Aerospace Education Public Affairs

NASA is receiving hundreds of high resolution digital pictures these days after a soft landing on Mars surface from the robot nicknamed "Spirit". British scientists are still trying to contact their probe, the Beagle 2, scheduled to land on the Red Planet this past Christmas. Spirit's successful landing bucked a trend of failed missions to the Red Planet. Just one in three past attempts to land on Mars has succeeded. More NASA probes are likely to follow at regular 26-month intervals, or each time the Earth revolves around Mars as they each orbit around the sun. Spirit and Opportunity are two identical six-wheeled roving robots visiting Mars for 90 days. They will analyze rocks and soil for traces life at 106 million miles from Earth. The first color images came late Sunday, January 4, 2004. Powered by solar panels, Spirit and Opportunity will be able to roam for quite some time.

Welcome to this first issue of the *Ramstein Reader*. One of the few non-technical specialty tracks in the U.S. Air Force and it's official auxiliary is public affairs. Frequently misunderstood as some sort of political or intelligence assignment, public affairs is really all about military journalism. A PAO typically overseas a unit's publication as the responsible "publisher", issues press releases and informs the general public on its units activities. In the context of a SAR operation, the PAO is directly subordinate to the Mission Coordinator as the official spokesperson (Information Officer) to the local media. Well, now that you know, let's see if 2004 brings us all a happy new year.



Capt. Raphael Eredita,